

Gregg L. Cunningham, Executive Director

December 6, 2023

Dear Pro-Life Supporter,

The history of effective social reform is the history of pictures; pictures which make invisible injustice visible by establishing the humanity of the victims, and pictures which depict the inhumanity of the unspeakable injustices by which those victims are being brutalized.

Until recently, few voters realized the extent to which the pro-life movement has been losing the abortion wars. Those losses derived from the ugly fact that the only pictures the pro-life movement had the courage to display revealed little about the atrocity of abortion or the breathtaking majesty of prenatal development. That strategic blunder was easily concealed prior to the *Dobbs* decision which reversed *Roe v. Wade*.

*Dobbs* was the Supreme Court ruling which transformed abortion from an inviolate constitutional right into a simple political issue on which the electorates of each state can now vote. And voting is precisely what those electorates are doing. The humiliating results of those votes demonstrate what happens when pro-lifers spend 50 years helping Planned Parenthood hide the humanity of preborn children and the horror of abortion.

In the last 18 months, the abortion industry has won every one of the seven consecutive ballot initiative campaigns which have now inserted abortion rights in the state constitutions of even deep red states such as Kansas and Kentucky. Pro-abortion judicial candidates have also won state supreme court elections in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. This despite the expenditure of more than 90 million largely squandered dollars by pro-life organizations in 2021.

If there is a silver lining to this crisis, it might be the possibility that the leadership of our movement might finally be forced to stop ignoring the lessons we can learn from the history of social reform. Pro-life donors have been funding failure for decades and now they are rightly demanding a change in strategy. *The Wall Street Journal* recently published a story which reported that anti-abortion donors largely sat out the most recent election cycle. Many donors are now wrongly concluding that abortion is a lost cause for pro-lifers, and they are no longer willing to throw good money after bad. Stubborn pro-life leaders may still resist changes in strategies which have heretofore fundraised well – but change is about to be forced upon them by donors who are no longer willing to fund nonsensical sloganeering (i.e., “I Am The Pro-Life Generation”), or feel-good virtue signaling which shouts noble conclusions without proving the facts which compel those conclusions (holding a “Pray To End Abortion” sign while refusing to show anyone why abortion is so evil they should pray for God to end it).

The Pew and Gallup public opinion research groups have recently published studies which confirm the facts which should guide our way forward as regards strategy and tactics. The vast majority of Americans support abortion without meaningful restrictions in the first trimester of pregnancy. That majority falls off dramatically in the second trimester and further still by the third trimester. Those numbers have remained essentially stable for decades. That is very bad news for the preborn because more than 90% of abortions are committed in the first trimester of pregnancy. There is an abundance of direct and circumstantial evidence

suggesting that voters support abortion in the first trimester because they believe (and many wish to believe) that the embryo and early fetus are “blobs” rather than “babies.” They are applying form and function criteria to make these judgments (what does the embryo look like and what is it capable of doing) and they conclude that the first trimester baby is insufficiently “infant-like” to be developmentally entitled to rights of personhood. They have never seen prenatal imagery proving otherwise but they have seen ultrasound scans of second- and third-trimester babies which look very much like “babies.” But what they don’t realize is that the embryo and early fetus are in fact quite infant-like in both appearance and behavior. And we now have scientific evidence to prove it.

Embryos don’t show up in high-resolution when viewed on ultrasound. But these small embryos can now be viewed with astonishing clarity using endoscopic video scans. A group called the Education Resource Fund (ERF) has begun to post such videos at [www.ERF.science](http://www.ERF.science). ERF also offers a free app which is available in the Apple and Google Play app stores under the name *See Baby Grow*. The app is especially useful because its content can be easily shared across all social media platforms.

If the pro-life movement can’t convince the public that the first-trimester baby is a “baby,” and not a “blob,” we are looking at another 50 years of failure. But we now have the visual imagery with which to solve that problem. The app mentioned above is an effective complement to science documentaries which teach the biology of prenatal development: The BBC offers two videos titled “9 Things Which Shape Your Identity Before Birth,” and “Life and Birth;” PBS has produced a video named “9 Months Which Made You;” the Discovery Channel created a video titled “From Conception To Birth;” and the National Geographic Society sells two prenatal videos titled “In the Womb,” and “In the Womb Multiples.” All are useful but none feature the spectacular endoscopic detail seen in the [www.ERF.science](http://www.ERF.science) first-trimester imagery.

Among the little-known prenatal facts which help humanize the process of prenatal development and make it more relatable is the amazing degree of collaboration which exists between the male and female reproductive systems during the first 24 hours between intercourse and fertilization. Relying chiefly on the excellent medical school textbook, *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., K. Moore, *et al.*, Elsevier (2016), consider the following processes of reproductive collaboration:

1. Male initiated:  
Up to 600 million sperm are deposited in the birth canal, of which 200 million reach the fertilization site in the uterine tube. Moore, pp. 25-26
2. Male initiated:  
An enzyme produced by the prostate helps liquify the semen to facilitate its flow into the female reproductive tract. Moore, p. 25
3. Male initiated:  
Fructose produced by the seminal glands is a source of energy which powers the sperm’s movement through the female reproductive tract. Moore, p. 25
4. Male initiated:  
Sperm are nonmotile during storage in the epididymis of the testis but they become motile when combined with seminal fluid. They move slowly in the acidic environment of the vagina but move rapidly in the alkaline environment of the uterus. Moore, p. 26

5. Female initiated:  
When ovulation occurs, the cervical mucus content increases in volume and becomes less viscous (less thick and sticky), making it a more favorable medium for sperm transport. Moore, p. 25
6. Female initiated:  
Some sperm are stored in the folds of the cervical crypts and are gradually released into the fallopian tubes. This maternal metering mechanism increases the chances of fertilization. Moore, p. 27
7. Female initiated:  
Cervical mucus helps capture and nourish sperm on their way to meet the egg in the uterine tube. ClevelandClinic.org
8. Female initiated:  
Sperm are usually capacitated (activated) while they are in the uterus or fallopian tubes by substances secreted by parts of the female genital tract. Moore, p. 26
9. Female initiated:  
Female reproductive fluid (FRF) interacts with sperm, increasing their motility and longevity and ultimately achieving fertilization success. "Sperm Accumulation Induced by the Female Reproductive Fluid..." PubMed, Sept. 18, 2021
10. Female initiated:  
Chemical signals (attractants) secreted by the female's oocyte (egg) guide sperm to the oocyte. Moore, p. 27
11. Male initiated:  
Carbohydrate binding molecules and gamete-specific proteins on the surface of the sperm are involved in egg-sperm recognition and union. Moore, p. 28
12. Female initiated:  
Sperm cannot fertilize the egg until a glycoprotein coat and seminal proteins are moved from the acrosome, or head of the sperm, by substances secreted by the female genital tract. Moore, p. 26
13. Female initiated:  
When capacitated sperm come into contact with the corona radiata (membrane) surrounding a secondary oocyte, they undergo complex molecular changes which facilitate fertilization. Moore, p. 26
14. Male initiated:  
Although apertures in the membrane surrounding the oocyte appear to be created mainly from the action of an enzyme released from the acrosome (head) of the sperm, maternal mucosal enzymes also appear to assist in creating these openings. Moore, p. 29
15. Male initiated:  
Fertilization is a complex sequence of coordinated molecular events that begins with contact between a sperm and an oocyte and ends with the intermingling of maternal and paternal chromosomes. Moore, p. 28

16. Male initiated:

The human oocyte contains some 8,000 zinc compartments, each storing approximately 1 million zinc atoms. When an egg makes contact with a sperm cell, these zinc atoms burst out of the egg. The zinc which now surrounds the egg strengthens its membrane against penetration by additional sperm. “Scientists Just Captured The Flash of Light That Sparks When a Sperm Meets an Egg,” April 27, 2016, ScienceAlert.com

17. Male initiated:

The pronuclei of the sperm and oocyte merge, each combining its 23 chromosomes with the 23 chromosomes of the other, forming the 46-chromosome embryo, which at this single-cell stage is called a zygote. Moore, p. 29

Note that intricate mechanisms described above occur before the process of prenatal development actually commences to create the single-cell embryo called a “zygote.” Psalm 139 reveals much about what happens next.

Verse 6 quotes the Psalmist acknowledging that an understanding of the procreative process “is too wonderful for me,” and “I cannot attain it.” But now, by God’s grace, science has made that knowledge far more attainable, even if it is still too complex to be fully understood.

Verse 12 says “even the darkness is not dark to you,” and now God is shining the light of science into the darkness of the womb to reveal the glory of His creation.

Verse 13 says God “knitted me together,” and now God is showing us how He achieved these unimaginably creative outcomes.

Verse 14 praises God for the fact that we are “wonderfully made,” and medical imaging advances now permit us to learn just how “wonderful” prenatal development actually is.

Verse 15 refers to our being “intricately woven” together “in secret.” But now the secret is out!

Help us spread the truth that the baby in the womb is a real baby, from the very beginning of life, and not some undifferentiated accident of the cosmos. Please donate to our vital effort to teach these lifesaving prenatal facts in churches and schools and to voters. Abortion isn’t healthcare. It’s an indefensible act of violence which kills an actual baby. I invite you below to join our team of LIFE GIVERS.

Lord bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Cunningham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gregg Cunningham  
Executive Director

P.S. Become a LIFE GIVER. A generous donor is offering a \$50,000 matching gift. The goal is to recruit new monthly donors, and to encourage current monthly donors (quarterly/annual pledges as well) to increase their pledges. We are naming the donors who make pledges to give monthly our LIFE GIVERS, because you are committed to saving babies’ lives.